

Watch Live Online

Media conference with SJSU President Don Kassing scheduled for 3 p.m. today, only at

THE SPARTAN DAILY.COM



Happy St. Patty's

A brief history lesson and an answer to the age-old question: "Who is really allowed to celebrate St. Patrick's Day?"

See OPINION, page 5.



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SERVING SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008



67° / 45°

PARTLY CLOUDY

FREE SINCE 1934

Gunman robs victim at Campus Village

By MICHAEL PASAOA
Staff Writer

An armed robbery took place at 3:50 a.m. Saturday in the Campus Village courtyard, according to the University Police Department.

The victim was outside Building B and was approached by a man who showed a gun and demanded the victim's money and property, according to an e-mail sent by UPD.

The victim complied and was not injured, according to the e-mail. The suspect fled toward East San Salvador Street and remains at large.

The suspect was described by UPD as a light-skinned African-American man wearing a black-hooded sweatshirt, dark-colored T-shirt, and dark blue jeans. He is believed to be around 5 feet 5 inches

tall and to weigh about 140 lbs.

The UPD always has a minimum of two officers on duty and there were four on duty the night of the crime, said UPD public information officer Sgt. Laws.

Right now there are about five officers scheduled per shift, Laws said. The officers working will spend more time around Campus Village, he said.

"I assumed it would be safe because cops are (around Campus Village) all the time," said Darshini Nadarajan, a junior business major. "I'm surprised it happened right in front of here — plus there's lights all over."

Nadarajan added that she always sees cops around Campus Village.

"You just press the button and they head straight here, and they don't even ask questions," she said.

Laws said police escorts are al-

ways available.

"When I first got here in 1988, we had a lot of escorts. We'd do as many as 30 or 40 a night," Law said. "Now we're down to two or three a night."

He said that people feel safe around campus now, but students still need to be careful and watch out for strangers.

"Sometimes people just assume that if someone's here on campus, or in the area of the dorms that they belong and that they're not going to hurt you," Laws said. "But there are strangers that are here that prey on students."

Laws said the first thing to do if students witness a robbery or are the victims of one, is to find a safe place immediately.

"You don't want to stand in front of them and say you're calling police," Laws said.

He said that incidents involving

guns on campus have been "few and far between."

"It doesn't make me any less afraid because you never know when it could happen," said Tom Anderson, 21, a junior English major.

"You've just got to be aware of your surroundings," he said.

One Campus Village Building B resident said the robbery is "shocking."

"We should just make sure that we're with somebody else when we're walking around," said Yesenia Moreno, a freshman art major.

Anyone with information about the robbery should contact UPD at 924-2222, the confidential tip line at 924-2236 or visit www.mysafecampus.com.

Spartan Daily editor Kyle Hansen contributed to this report.



ANNE RIGOR / SPARTAN DAILY

An armed robbery was reported to have taken place in the area of the Campus Village courtyard early Saturday morning.

Search for new SJSU president continues

Closed-door meeting narrows candidates

By LIZA ATAMY
Staff Writer

A closed meeting of the Trustee's Selection Committee about choosing SJSU's next president was held Friday morning at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.

"Today, the search advisory committee will go through all of the candidates that have indicated an interest in the presidency of SJSU," Chancellor Charles Reed said before the two-hour meeting.

Reed said the aim of the meeting was to narrow the list of candidates so the committee could begin first interviews.

Reed detailed the criteria for the nominees: outstanding leadership, a vision for SJSU, willing to work seven days a week and 24 hours a day, and willing to bring the entire San Jose community together.

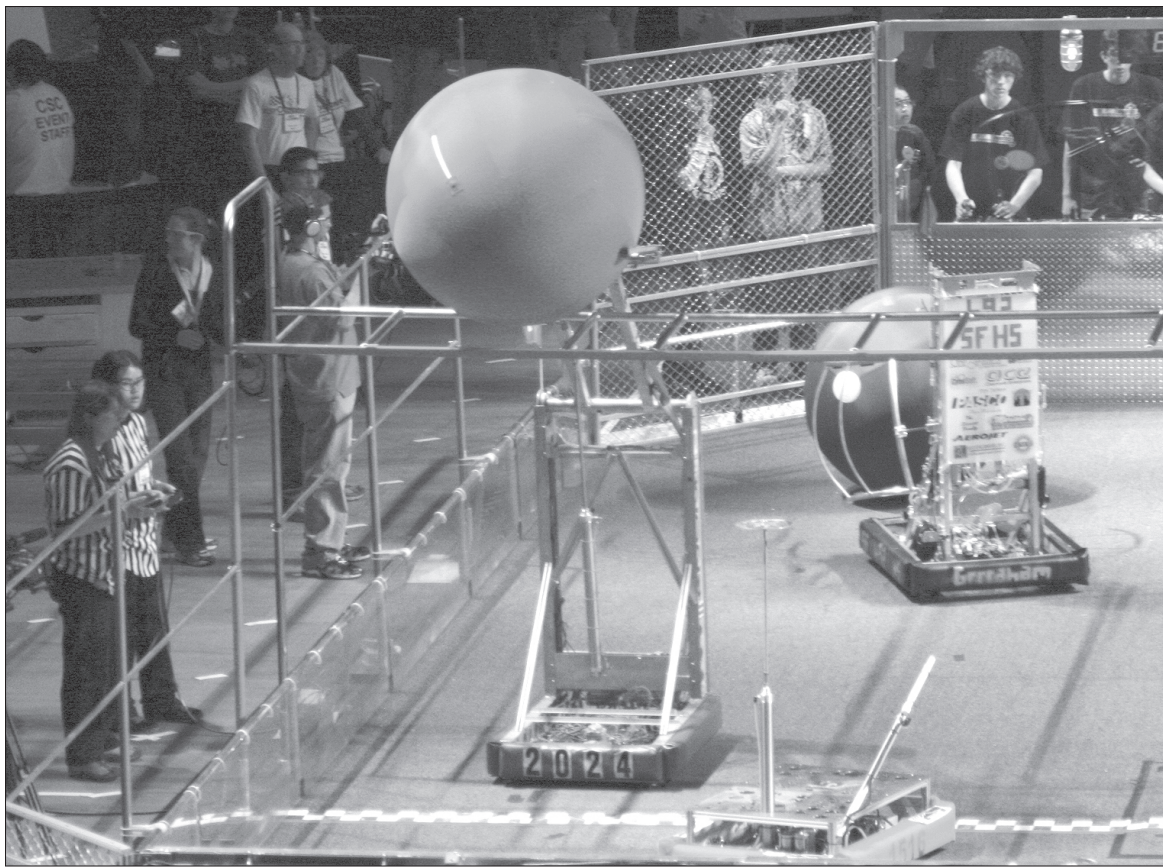
"It will be very hard to fill Don Kassing's shoes," he said, "but that's what we're supposed to do."

According to Reed, the committee must narrow the candidates down to "more than five, and less than 10."

Reed said the next meeting is scheduled to be some time in April, but a date has not been set. That meeting will be the third meeting so far this school year. The first was the only public meeting and was held over winter break.

The confidentiality of Friday's meeting was "necessary in order to attract the very best candidates,"

See PRES, page 2



ARTHUR MARKMAN / SPARTAN DAILY

A robot picks up one of the balls from the floor and extends its arms to throw the ball over the elevated platform as part of the competition.

High schoolers, robots rumble in Event Center

Competition challenges young minds via bot-battle

By LIZA ATAMY
Staff Writer

The 2008 FIRST Robotics Competition took place at the SJSU Event Center on Friday and Saturday.

The competition aims to have team professionals and young students try to solve an engineering design problem in an intense and competitive way, according to the program's Web site.

There were 48 registered teams for this year's competition in the Silicon Valley region, and each team

had anywhere between 10 to 40 people, according to its Web site.

"This event is about team building and working with other people to reach an end result," said Fred White, tech director for the competition. "The teams must build robots with a specific set of parts, to a specific set of rules, to perform a specific set of functions."

White said that teams build their own robots, and then they come to the competition and get matched up with other teams to achieve an end goal.

"The teams that get matched don't know one another, but they work together to achieve a common goal," he said. "This principle exists in the business world."

Taylor Cheung, mentor for the Robotics Team of San Leandro High School, signed up for the position because he wanted to help the students out with their projects.

"I graduated from San Leandro High School, and BAE Systems, the company I work for, spon-

See ROBOT, page 2

Off-campus blood drives restricted

Groups must declare no SJSU affiliation

By KIMBERLY TSAO
Staff Writer

Blood banks have been banned from SJSU's campus for violating the school's nondiscrimination policy — a policy that protects gay men who are not allowed to donate blood. The ban, however, is not without its loopholes.

Although students can't hold off-campus blood drives with organizations affiliated with SJSU, they can hold drives as unaffiliated volunteers because the fraternity is an SJSU organization. Fass said the fraternity's adviser, Brian Taylor, was notified by Student Involvement last week.

"I think that's a good idea," said Teresa Schiller, a senior communication studies major, said in reference to the blood drive ban. "We're taking a stand against discrimination."

Dominic Fass, president of Tau Delta Phi, said the fraternity was setting up a blood drive for February. President Kassing's ban put a dent in its plans — until now.

Students from that fraternity are

holding a blood drive at Grace Baptist Church today from 2 to 7 p.m. It's located across the street from campus on 10th and San Fernando streets.

In compliance with the ban, the fraternity had to organize the blood drive off campus and not as Tau Delta Phi, but as individuals or volunteers because the fraternity is an SJSU organization. Fass said the fraternity's adviser, Brian Taylor, was notified by Student Involvement last week.

"I think ultimately it's up to the person's decision if they want to or not give blood," said Valerie Reyes, a junior nursing major. "No one should put a ban on anyone's right to do what they want to do."

Members of the fraternity promoted the blood drive at the tables outside the Student Union on March 12. Fass said 60 people signed up,

See BLOOD, page 4



SPARTAN DAILY ARCHIVES

The Grace Community Center and members of Tau Delta Phi are scheduled to host the first blood drive near campus since the ban on blood drives in January.

INSIDE the DAILY

THE HOUSE THAT MARK BUILT

Graduate student Mark Fox-Morgan displays a full-scale paper house on campus.

See STUDENT CULTURE, page 6



WEEKEND BRAWL AT SJSU

Eight SJSU fighters participated in the second-annual event, and one made her season debut.

See SPORTS, page 3

Campus provides varietal ambience for students' ears

By KIMBERLY TSAO
Staff Writer

Trees are getting haircuts. Cars are whizzing by. Students are chatting in the corridors. These are some of the noises that drown out professors' voices during classes.

"People just need to keep their voices down," said Colleen Lee, a fifth-year business management major. "I mean, you should be aware people are in class, and they're still learning."

She said early dismissal times are fine once in a while, but professors should remind students to be quiet when other classes are still in session.

Grant Corvin, a freshman anima-

tion illustration major, said his Japanese 1A professor had the same issue of students being noisy as they left Hugh Gillis Hall until the class moved to MacQuarrie Hall.

Noise in the Central Classroom Building also gets out of control sometimes when children at the preschool lab are being picked up or dropped off.

"Children are happy to leave mom and dad," said Joy Foster, lab instructor of the preschool lab on campus. Child and adolescent development

majors enroll in the class, and they take care of the children.

Sometimes the noise carries over to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library and near Sweeney Hall when the children go on field trips. Foster said the trips teach the buddy system and self-discipline.

On the field trips, they and other students may notice the facilities ground workers who operate weed whackers to make sure the sprinklers aren't blocked, and they also operate leaf blowers and trim the trees on

campus.

The branches may fall and injure people so the facilities department has a GPS database for every tree that tracks its life cycle, said Tony Valenzuela, associate vice president of Facilities Development and Operations.

"We also prune the trees because it's also healthy for the trees to not have too much overgrowth," Valenzuela said. "We like trees."

Additionally, he said SJSU has 10 to

See NOISE, page 2

theSPARTANDAILY.com

Does noise from on-campus construction and maintenance disturb your classes? Vote online.

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ROBOT|Competition 'hands on' student says

Continued from page 1

sors the program," Cheung said. "I wanted to help the kids out with the engineering and some of the design. Overall, I wanted to give them my support and advice."

Cheung said the teams had six weeks to build, design and test-run robots.

Elvin Lucero, a senior at San Leandro High School and president of the Robotics Team, has been part of the team since freshman year.

"Our robot is called (pi sign)-Rat, and its basic function is to go fast," Lucero, 18, said. "We came up with the idea in one week and modeled it off an RV car."

Lucero hopes to major in computer science or computer engineering.

"I love it," he said. "It's just one of those things."

The Monta Vista Robotics Team of Monta Vista High School came in first place at the competition, along with Woodside High School and Belarmine College Prep High School.

"Our robot is called Altero-11, and it has a grabber that lifts the ball above the overpass and hurdles it over," said Humphruy Hu, a senior at Monta Vista High School.

"We officially have six weeks to work on our robots, but we specifically start our season in the beginning of the school year to fundraise for entrance fees," Hu, 17, said.

Along with the fundraising, Hu said they train new members and make sure they know the purpose of the game and the rules of the competition.

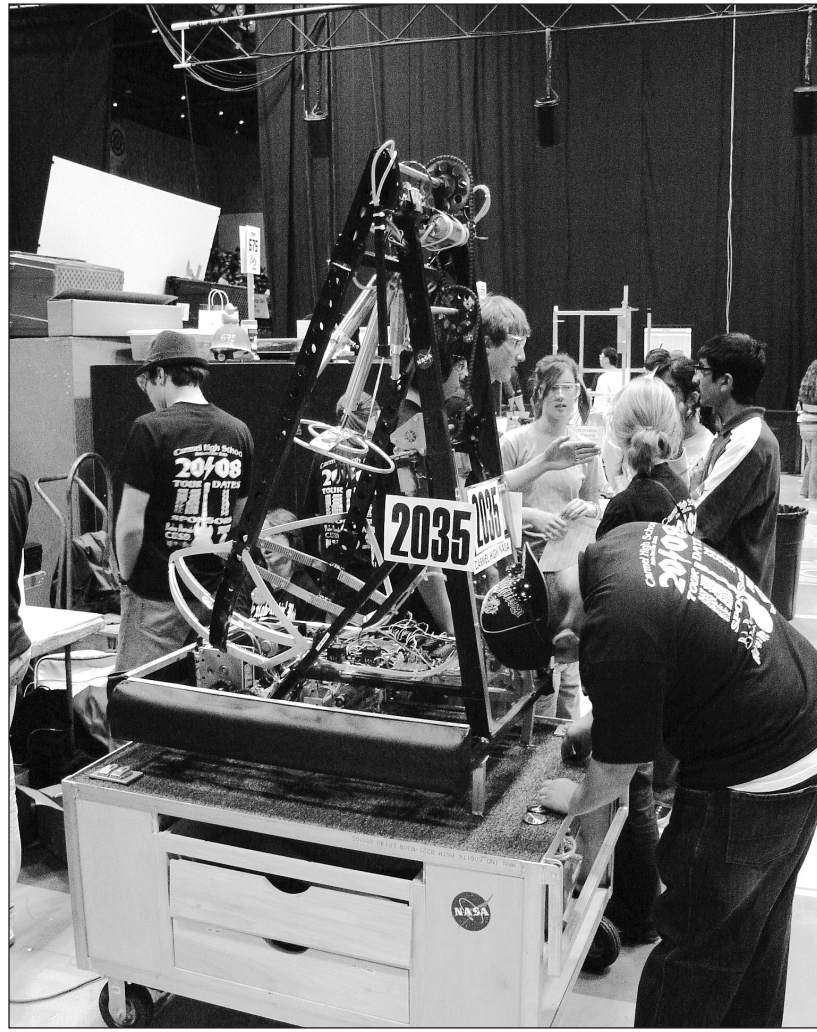
"We decide how to approach the game before starting anything," he said.

For Natalie Copeland, a junior in Massachusetts Academy, this was her first year participating in the Robotics competition.

"I joined because it's a lot of teamwork and hands on," Copeland, 17, said. "I learned to use all kinds of

machines and tools, and it's just really exciting to be in a competition with all the enthusiasm."

According to the competition's Web site, the winners are awarded sponsorship money, but it did not indicate how much it was exactly.



ARTHUR MARKMAN / SPARTAN DAILY

A pit crew worked on its robot to ready it for the competition on Friday.

PRES|Nominees announced in May

Continued from page 1

Reed said. "Also, these people have really good jobs, and it may jeopardize their current position if you're out advertising their interest in SJSU."

Reed said the final candidates will be notified that their nominations will become public. According to Reed, the nominees will be announced around May 1, and they will be interviewed again by the full Board of Trustees.

"Comments about the candidates will be allowed only after they are made public and come to the campus," he said.

Kenneth Peter, professor of political science at SJSU, and Benjamin Henderson, president of Associated Students at SJSU, both declined to comment when asked about the meeting.

"They have made it very clear to us that we are not allowed to talk about it," Peter said.

Reed was asked to comment af-

ter the meeting, and declined to give any information about its progress.

He said, though, that there were fewer candidates after the meeting than beforehand.

As for the inauguration of SJSU's new president, "that becomes a negotiable item," Reed said. "I would very much like to see a new president on this campus after the first of July, but again that depends on what the person has to disengage from."

NOISE|Areas fenced off for campus safety

Continued from page 1

20 construction projects in progress.

"If it's intrusive projects, where they need to go to the classrooms or offices, we usually do it at night," Valenzuela said. "For other projects that are not as intrusive in classes, we have to do it during the day."

"Weekends would probably be best just because no one would be

here," said Michael Sustaita, a junior animation major.

According to Valenzuela, sometimes construction can't be avoided for emergency or practicality reasons. Also, he said students are on campus from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and at night, construction might disturb the neighborhood or on-campus residents.

He said even if some construc-

tion in the Morris Dailey Auditorium occurs in the evening, that area is fenced off for safety purposes.

"Sometimes you just can't avoid it. It's just part of progress," he said.

Students and employees can call 924-1990 to file complaints about maintenance noises or to learn more about construction projects on campus.

SPARTA GUIDE

EVENT CALENDAR

Tomorrow

Live Music: Sinfonietta: The Seasons

Student Showcase. Featuring soloists and flute choir. 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. at the Music Building Concert Hall. Contact: Joan Stubbe, 924-4649, jstubbe@email.sjsu.edu

Counseling Services' Help Me! I Have Test Anxiety!

Have you ever gone into a test well prepared and then when you sat down, you couldn't remember a thing? Test anxiety is normal, but you can control it. Spend 60 minutes of your time, play Tic Tac Testing, and make the test taking experience more pleasant. 3 to 4 p.m. at Administration Building Room 269. Contact: Deanna Peck, 924-5910, dgalest@sjsu.edu

Art & Design Lecture: A place for artistic dialogue between art, new technologies and industrial creation

Rosina Gomez-Baeza, director of the LABoral Centro de Arte y Creacion Industrial at the Universidad LABoral in the Northern Spanish city of Gijon, will discuss the programs and projects of this new innovative arts center. 5 p.m. at Art Building Room 133. Contact: 924-4327, tbelcher@sjsuvm1.sjsu.edu

Dress For Success

The Men's Wearhouse district managers Timothy Henning and Salwa Chaahan show you how to dress professional for any occasion whether it's for a business meeting, interview or a social gathering. Presented by Delta Sigma Pi. 9 to 10:30 p.m. at Student Union Pacifica Room. Contact: Christopher Lozano, christopherlozano@dpsjsu.org

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon, three working days before the desired publication date. Space restrictions may require editing of submission. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received. Submit entries online at thespartandaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.

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The SJSU baseball team beat Sacramento State 5-4 on Sunday to cap a four-game weekend series with the Hornets. The Spartans won three of the four games.
See story online at thespartandaily.com

theSPARTANDAILY.com
Check out a photo slideshow of Saturday's Fight Night.

Blood, sweat and cheers at boxing club's Fight Night

By JOHN ELLIS
Staff Writer

SJSU student boxers took four out of eight bouts Saturday at the second annual Spartan Fight Night, including standout wins by Luc Mai and Monique Varela.

Mai, a sophomore aviation major, added another win to his amateur resume by out-pointing UC Berkeley fighter David Keegan, in a fight that didn't slow down until the last bell rang.

Mai's fluid punches and diverse skill set led to his victory as he out-paced his opponent, landing shots seemingly at will. Mai attacked the body, and then the head, and then went back to the body, untucking Keegan's shirt and bruising his face.

"I heard him wince when I hit him in the body," Mai said. "I have a new-found respect for that guy. I've never seen heart like that before."

Varela, a seniorsportsmanagement major, fought her way through a tough, back-and-forth contest.

Participating in her first amateur fight after training all season long, Varela said she was nervous about her stamina going into the fight, but she wasn't worried about her opponent.

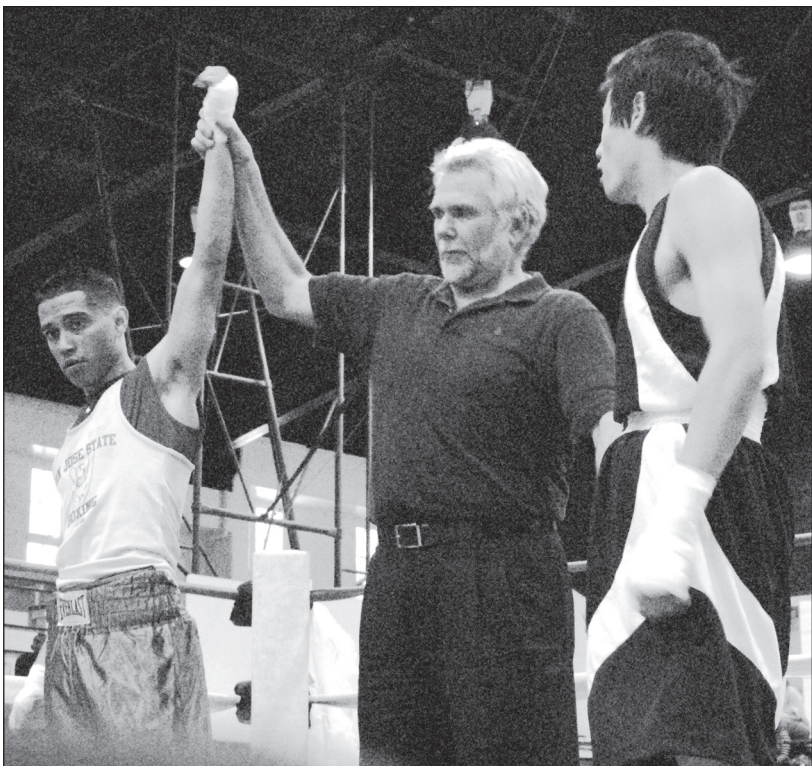
"I'm not questioning my skills, just my cardio," Varela said just minutes before her fight.

Varela landed the harder punches throughout the three-round fight, in which both fighters became fatigued



CARLOS A. MORENO / SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

ABOVE: SJSU's Alejandro Cuadra leaned over the ropes after suffering a bloody nose in his fight Saturday. RIGHT: The referee raises Cuadra's arm in victory after the judges decision is announced.



CARLOS A. MORENO / SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

in the latter stages.

Her opponent, Cal State Northridge club boxer Lisa Porter, had an obvious speed advantage, landing faster, although softer combinations. However, the judges decision went to an excited Varela.

"I'm just glad it is over, she is a very good boxer," Varela said. "I got tired in Round 2, but I did it. Not too many people can say they boxed before, and even fewer women can say it."

In other action Saturday, SJSU club fighters Alejandro Cuadra

and David Ly both had success in the squared-circle against strong competition.

Cuadra, a senior finance major, battled through a bloodied nose he received early on in the first round, two referee warnings about hitting below the belt and rabbit punches — punches to the back of the neck — before securing two standing eight counts in the last two rounds, and winning via decision against University of San Francisco's Adam Tompkinson.

"I did very well against him,"

Cuadra said. "I'm happy with my performance."

Ly, a senior public relations major, needed just one round to defeat his opponent, Michael Patane of USF.

Patane came out with high energy, swinging fast and hard, putting Ly on the defensive. Ly showed good reaction, and reversed the momentum of the fight to his favor, forcing Patane into the corner and unleashing his own intense flurry.

The referee called for a standing eight count as Patane complained

of an eye injury, and the bout was stopped shortly thereafter.

"It was stopped too early," Ly said. "I didn't feel like I landed that hard of a punch. I don't really count that one."

SJSU's Aaron Guerrero, Kedrick Shadley, Ramzy Eldabbagh and Alan Cheng all had impressive moments in their fights but didn't claim victory, losing as a result of judge's decisions.

Cheng fought Santa Clara

University's Chris Haley, the No. 2-ranked collegiate boxer in the nation at his weight class, in a fight that SJSU's coach thought belonged to the Spartan boxer.

"I thought he did really well against (Haley)," said Candelario Lopez, SJSU boxing club coach. "Alan could have got the win."

SJSU Fight Night attracted 257 fans. Last year's event drew more than 500.

Spartans triumph in overtime thriller

By DINA BASLAN
Staff Writer

The Spartans' Beth Harberts ended a quadruple-overtime match with the winning goal for the women's water polo team, helping SJSU to a 10-9 victory over nationally ranked No. 10 UC Davis on Saturday at the Aquatic Center.

"After three hour practices you always want to get that last goal," said Harberts, a graduate student in kinesiology, who had three goals on the day, "and it just reflects how hard we all worked to get ahead the last second."

The Spartans took a 4-1 lead in the first quarter, with the first goal scored three minutes into the game by Bridget McKee and assisted by Adrianna Vogt.

"The first quarter is really important in games like this," said Vogt, a freshman kinesiology major. "It definitely sets the team up."

The Spartans led 5-3 heading into the third quarter, but the Aggies caught up, coming out strong and quick in the third, scoring four goals and transferring the game to their favor at 7-6.

"We always have a close game with Davis," said SJSU coach Lou Tully. "The outside shooting is what we were training to develop. We have pretty good shooters."

Vogt was injured in the middle of the third quarter as she went underwater to finish a shot when an opponent's fingers struck her in the face just below her eye.



MICHELLE HORTON / SPARTAN DAILY

Spartan senior Juliet Moss passes to a teammate during Saturday's win.

"They got a goal cause I was taken back by it," Vogt said. "That obviously made a difference, but you can't let those things affect you. You gotta get back in there and finish the game."

Harberts delivered the tying goal with just over two minutes remaining in the final quarter to even the score at eight a piece.

"We played as a team, and it showed," Vogt said. "Being up 4-1 and then going down is not really an easy thing, but we definitely came back from it."

Shortly after the first minute of the first overtime period, Harberts scored a goal, but that was followed with an Aggies' goal delivered by Christi Raycraft to tie the game 9-9.

"I wasn't even tired," said Juliet Moss, a senior kinesiology major. "Because my adrenaline was going so much, it didn't even faze me. I was just swimming up and back trying to get that last goal so we could win."

Contact the sports desk at:
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Dalia Rawson in Serenade
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*Some restrictions apply

BLOOD|Fraternity says it won't host more blood drives until ban stops

Continued from page 1

but walk-ins are welcome. Andrew Matau, a senior computer engineering major, said he hadn't heard about it. "I would put fliers in the dorms," said Kimberly Uweh, a freshman chemistry major. Sarah Ligda, a graduate experimental psychology major, said that if the blood drive wasn't on midterm

week, "It would probably help, like, the response rate." "I would if I had the opportunity to," she said. "I'm a grad student so I'm pretty busy." Fass said his fraternity won't be holding anymore blood drives until Kassing lifts the ban. One blood bank, though, is still banking on students. Michele Hyn-dman, the Stanford Blood Center's PR Manager, said in an interview last

month that the center will hold blood drives near SJSU. "We know that convenience is a major factor in students' decisions to donate blood," Hyndman said. "We hope that that the inconvenience of having to go further to reach a blood drive does not impact the local blood supply." She said about 300 people donate blood every year at SJSU blood drive.

"We're not making a decision between whether people should donate blood or not, we're making a decision whether our campus policy is going to be upheld."

LARRY CARR
associate vice president
for public affairs

"I think it's a little stereotypical because I mean, if you're going to ban homosexuals, why not ban other ... parts of society that might be at risk?"

SARAH LIGDA
graduate student,
experimental psychology

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From the Wire
Associated Press

Police probe first killing in Los Gatos since 2003
Police are investigating the first killing in Los Gatos in five years. Authorities say 53-year-old Mark Achilli — a local bar owner and restaurateur who retired last year — was gunned down in front of his town house around 11:40 a.m. Friday. Achilli was shot several times in the head, chest and other parts of his body. Witnesses saw a man dressed in black and carrying a black bag running from the home just after the shooting. Los Gatos is located 12 miles southwest of San Jose.

Fed takes new steps to ease financial crisis
Washington
The Federal Reserve announced a series of new steps Sunday to help provide relief to a spreading credit crisis that threatens to plunge the economy into recession. The central bank approved a cut to its lending rate to financial institutions to 3.25 percent from 3.50 percent, effective immediately, and created another lending facility for big investment banks to secure short-term loans. The steps are "designed to bolster market liquidity and promote orderly market functioning," the Fed said in a statement. "Liquid well-functioning markets are essential for the promotion of economic growth." The new lending facility will be available to financial institutions on Monday.

Three people missing in NYC crane collapse
New York
Rescuers dug through debris Sunday for three people still missing in the rubble and wreckage left when a construction crane toppled like a tree across a city block and killed at least four construction workers. Among the missing were two workers and a woman who was staying in an apartment at a town-house flattened by the crane. "Each passing hour, things get a little more grim," Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said. Twenty-four others were injured, including 11 first responders, said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Eight remained hospitalized Sunday, officials said. The crane rose 19 stories and was attached to an apartment tower under construction when it broke away Saturday and toppled like a tree onto buildings as far as a block away. On Sunday, crews continued to remove pieces of the crane and piles of debris from the damaged buildings as neighborhood residents and a Manhattan borough official raised concerns about city inspections at the apartment tower. "I warned the Buildings Department on March 4 that it was not sufficiently braced against the building," said Bruce Silberblatt, a retired contractor and vice president of the Turtle Bay Neighborhood Association. Retired ironworker Kerry Walker, who with his wife lived in the top-floor apartment of the four-story townhouse and left minutes before the collapse, had complained that the crane appeared dangerously unstable, his stepson said. "He knows all about cranes and said this one had no braces, everything was too minimal," John Viscardi said. "He told one friend on the phone that 'if you don't hear from me, it's because the crane fell on my house.'" City officials said the crane was inspected Friday. At day later, it was being lengthened with a new section, a process known as "jumping," when it fell. Bloomberg said mechanical failure or human error may have caused the accident. "As far as we can tell, all procedures that were called for were being followed," he said.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Ugh!
5 Secret supply
10 Big — theory
14 Sound bounce
15 Tiny part
16 Europe-Asia range
17 Stole
18 Apprehension
19 Caveman discovery
20 House feature
22 Blot out
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67 Take a load off

DOWN

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60 Furniture wood

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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Who gets a free pass to celebrate?



KEVIN RAND

Morning Breath

Kiss me. I'm Irish.
Look closely.
Not here, stupid. The picture. Can't you see my Celtic heritage? You can really tell when I grow out my facial hair, because about one out of every four-and-a-half beard strands is copper-red.
It's too bad the opinion page is black-and-white today. Otherwise, I wouldn't have shaved.
Anyway, top o' the whatever time of day it is to you. Enjoy the holiday.
On the real, though, I am a quarter Irish — along with a quarter Eastern-European Jewish and half Filipinoish, pin"o." Sorry.
That means my favorite meal is corned beef and cabbage, with matzos and lumpia.

It also means that I've got a free pass to crack white *and* brown jokes.
Yup, just like my potato-famined forefathers, I can have a day all to ourselves, all while telling jokes like, "So a Mick, a rabbi and Ferdinand Marcos walk into a bar ..."
And I can get away with it.
Hey, being a minority comes with its perks.
It's all good, though. We got here second — third, when counting the natives.
That's why there's the Filipino Channel and why there is no White Entertainment Television, minus CMT (look it up).
You have to understand, though. When you look or act differently, and you come to a place where everyone else looks and acts the same, you feel kind of left out, just like many of our ancestors did. So you need that morale boost.
I know. I shouldn't feel left out, and I don't; but I know my Filipino grandparents did.
Even the first Irish-Americans had it rough among their fellow Anglo-Americans.
Here's an excerpt from a Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute study, which details

a bit of early Irish-American prejudice: "Many job posters and newspaper ads ended with 'No Irish Need Apply.' Hotels and restaurants may have had signs stating 'No Irish Permitted in this Establishment.'" Long live St. Patrick.
Viva Cinco de Mayo and a big Kung Hey Fa Choy to you, too.
Happy belated Black History Month, also. An entire month and Black Entertainment Television are a little — OK, a lot — exclusive, but there are reasons to celebrate things like blackness — or Buddhism or Chicano pride — in America.
Reverse discrimination? Please.
That term doesn't even make sense, especially in the context to which I'm referring.
It goes like this: Once you face serious,

deliberate, life-affecting prejudice by a majority group, you get that free pass to celebrate.
Or, once you enter a place where a group once held privilege over, well, everybody, you get that free pass.
Nowadays, even certain classes of white people get that exemption.
Yes, Jeff Foxworthy, you might be a redneck.
If you complain about Chris Rock "n"-wording all over the stage, then you don't get it.
We minority groups can crack jokes and have our beer-drinking holidays because history isn't that far back yet.
When we're all yellow and four-fingered, we might look back at St. Patty's and affirmative action and the NAACP, and we might be puzzled.
For now, though, if an Irishman, a rabbi and a Filipino walk into a bar, get them fellows some green beer.

"Morning Breath" appears the first and third Monday of every month. Kevin Rand is the Spartan Daily executive editor.



By TARA DUFFY
Staff Writer

A quick history lesson before the drinking begins

St. Patrick's Day is one of my favorite holidays, and as Cinco de Mayo is no longer celebrated just by Mexicans, St. Patrick's Day is no longer just for the Irish.
It doesn't matter who you are. Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day.
I love large gatherings of people, banding together to have a good time, to celebrate and, for one night, forget their worries — nevermind that worries will be back in the morning, along with an ever-present hangover.
St. Patrick's Day falls on a Monday this year, but I bet there will still be people filling the streets, pouring out of Irish pubs and other bars around San Jose.

St. Patrick's Day is a time for friends to get together and to start the first real celebration of spring; and it's about more than just green beer.
It recently occurred to me that that some people might not understand what they are celebrating today, so I thought that I might provide a little background to what the day is all about. I got all of my information from the good old History Channel, where I get most of my history lessons.
St. Patrick was the patron saint of Ireland, and was thought to have converted many Irish to Christianity. He was believed to have died March 17, sometime around 460 A.D.
At one time, St. Patrick's Day was only celebrated by the Irish, and was mostly a religious holiday that involved people going to mass in the morning, and then celebrating into the night.
St. Patrick's Day was thought to have been brought to America around 1845, when the great potato famine of Ireland caused nearly 1 million Irish to come to the United States to avoid starvation.
When the Irish arrived, they were looked down on by Americans and other upper-middle class Irish for being uneducated and poor. The History Channel quoted, "When Irish-Americans in (U.S.) cities took to the streets on St. Patrick's Day to celebrate their heritage, newspapers portrayed them in cartoons as drunk, violent monkeys."
The new immigrants soon realized that their large numbers had made them a majority, in turn giving them quite a bit of political power in the United States. At this point, St. Patrick's Day became a show for politicians who catered to the Irish vote. Irish-Americans became more socially acceptable.
To celebrate St. Patrick's Day properly, you should pick up some traditional Irish food and drinks.
Corned beef and cabbage is a popular St. Patrick's Day meal. If you don't want to go through all the bother of cooking up cabbage, you can pick up a can of corned beef hash and a loaf of soda bread from the grocery store — most delicious.
When going out tonight, there will no doubt be some great deals on Guinness beer, Bushmills Whiskey and Bailey's Irish Cream. Even better, save money and mix all three together and let the good times roll.

It's about more than just green beer.

Comment from the Web

The comment below refers to Heather Driscoll's column "Leave teaching to the professionals" from March 12.

Home schooling has several benefits

Let's look at some other reasons parents may choose to school their children at home and keep their kids out of the system.
1. There are the children for whom learning to socialize at recess is the functional equivalent of learning swim by jumping into the deep end. I can't tell you how many of the "socialization" skills I learned as a child/adolescent I had to unlearn as an adult.
2. Stronger family bonds: It's not just the right wing that feels this is valuable. Kids from strong families rarely get into trouble.
3. Greater freedom to travel as a family without being bound by the school schedule: Can you see how that may work better for families who must travel or move frequently as a consequence of work?
4. Children with serious health issues must often be home schooled.
5. Not all children work well in groups or in the classroom setting. Wouldn't teachers prefer these "difficult" children, who require so much extra attention, be schooled at home?
6. How about those children whose primary interests are rocket science and Appalachian fiddle music? How flexible is your public school curriculum to take advantage of the kids' interests?
Home schooling is all about our kids. We will do anything to ensure they lead happy, secure lives. Why else would parents give up a second income, a promising career, or even their free time, to educate their kids? Why would we spend our own money in search of curricula that fit our kids' needs and interests? Don't use one case to judge the rest of us, please.

- Kathryn Wickward

Private military contractors aren't right for the job



KRIS ANDERSON

The Decline of Mojo

The sun's bronze glow paints the entire landscape the same color. The buildings are all different shades of sand, seemingly the reconstitution of dust in the form of walls and roofs.
The grass is mostly dead, with patches of green peeping through fields of brown and red.
There are wires tethered to poles all around this Mars-like landscape, yet none of them crack or pump with the shocks of electricity.
Rhythmic pop-pop-pops can be heard everywhere. Orders are given casually, taken out casually.
1990s-style Mercedeses dart around the area, some swerving and screeching to a halt, others crashing into other cars and exploding with steam.
Those holding the camcorders recording these bits of life, or non-life, cheer as the cars halt and smoke. They use racial epithets. They wear camouflage.
This scene is in Iraq, or Afghanistan or any other of nine countries where military contractors from the United States are deployed.
Companies like Blackwater Worldwide that train 40,000 people per year contribute to mercenary activities across the globe — with little, if any, oversight.
Who could have thought that after all President Bush has done to privatize this country, contracting our security priorities would become fair game?

When one hears the saying "turn a blind eye," it could be referring to the debacle that is global military contracting.
The military, with Bush as its commander in chief, does not place any judicial imperative on private military contractors, yet will hastily leap into siege missions to exact revenge.
What are civilians doing in Iraq armed to the teeth and without an ounce of conscience?
In March 2004, a convoy was attacked in Fallujah, Iraq. Normally, this wouldn't

What are civilians doing in Iraq armed to the teeth and without an ounce of conscience?

signal anything out of the ordinary in a war-torn country. But this particular convoy contained four Blackwater employees.
All four armed contractors were killed with small arms and grenades.
Their bodies were burned and hung above the Euphrates River.
This incident was one of the prime causes for the U.S.'s bloody invasion of the city of Fallujah — a siege that killed many insurgents but left tens of thousands without homes.
Three years later, Blackwater employees — who are essentially armed Rambo impersonators — opened fire in Baghdad and killed 17 Iraq civilians.
There were reportedly two Blackwater helicopters in the vicinity that aided in the attacks.
Although the Iraq government revoked Blackwater's license to operate the very next day, what justice has been done?

And I'm not talking about the mercenaries who ruthlessly killed 17 innocent civilians — I'm talking about the institution of private military contracting.
When did this become a viable system of operation toward achieving combat specific goals?
These are civilians with flak jackets and machine guns who ultimately have a license to kill.
YouTube the word "Blackwater," and one of the first videos to pop up shows the senseless murder of Iraqis by a private military contractor — but it's unsure if the actual killers were from the Blackwater company itself.
Those working for the North Carolina-based company have free reign to shoot, kill, mame, displace, what-have-you.
It's sad enough that American citizens must walk with the stigma of the Bush administration over their heads daily. It's bad enough that we are citizens of a country who still have absolutely no freakin' clue as to why the American military is in Iraq.
There have been purported reasons, but nobody has told me, "Hey, this is why Americans are dying daily."
Obviously, this is the hottest debate topic for the upcoming presidential election, and if anything, we need to learn as a nation to hold our leaders accountable.
But above and beyond the idea and discussion of how to get the hell out of Iraq, what are we going to do about the private military contractors?
Can these mercenaries remain there as a sort of disconnected, specialist-combat arm of the United States and maintain operation?
Nothing has stopped them yet. Let's hope that the new leader will.

"The Decline of Mojo" appears every Monday. Kris Anderson is a Spartan Daily copy editor.

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the DAILY

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We don't trust her. A lot of people still want her to go."

ANH CUNNINGHAM

San Jose resident referring to San Jose City Councilwoman Madison Nguyen, who voted to allow privately-funded "Little Saigon" signage.

This house is not a home

Rather, it's the paper project of art and design student Mark Fox-Morgan

By KATE TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Wood-like beams of paper screwed together by nuts and bolts make up the frame of Mark Fox-Morgan's thesis project.

Fox-Morgan, an art and design graduate student at SJSU, will be showing his life-size, cast paper house today through Thursday in Gallery 3 of the Art and Design Building.

The house is not structurally reinforced, he said, but is made from dense, solid cast paper with thicknesses similar to wood beams found in actual houses.

Fox-Morgan, 34, said his 8-foot-by-10-foot-by-11-foot paper house represents a dorm room.

Before he came to SJSU, Fox-Morgan said he lived in his own

house in Sacramento, but had to "give that up" to move to San Jose for school.

"Unfortunately, I couldn't find a living situation," he said, "so I moved into a dorm room."

Fox-Morgan lived alone in one of the brick dorms and then moved into an apartment in 2006 with four other students in Campus Village.

"Going from my own three-bedroom house to an 8-by-10 room was a quite humbling experience," he said.

Having started last April and finishing March 9, Fox-Morgan said the project has taken a year to complete and \$300 to \$400 worth of wood glue.

The meaning behind the house stems from his relationship with his

father, who Fox-Morgan said owned about numerous houses and gave one to each of his children, although they were always in his father's name.

"It was kind of a controlling thing," Fox-Morgan said. "He kind of spent more time with the houses than his family."

He said he stopped communicating with his father at the age of 15.

Like his relationship with his father, Fox-Morgan said, only the structure of the paper house is built.

"This house is in a state of flux," he said. "You don't know if it's being torn down or built up. So, much like my relationship with my father, I don't know if that relationship is coming to an end and being torn apart or being built up again."

Fox-Morgan said his father didn't like that his son was pursuing a degree and career in art and teaching art, instead wanting his son to work for the state or join the military.

"To bring to fruition three years of a thesis or a show," he said, "I couldn't think of anything more poignant than a house."

Shannon Wright, an assistant professor of spatial art, said she thought Fox-Morgan's project showed the absurdity of trying to build a house out of something as fragile as paper.

"The house is a universal symbol for everyone," Fox-Morgan said. "Everyone wants a place they can call their own. It's a universal symbol for shelter and everyone needs it, and everyone is either going through

a crisis with the housing market or through post-Katrina."

Fox-Morgan said he also wanted to show people the nature of paper and that it can be made durable.

"I'm pretty work-obsessed with making something that has a real statement," he said.

He said he made each cast himself, using old bills, junk mail and other pieces of scrap paper lying around.

"I think it's mostly recycled paper from the art office at school," Wright said. "It becomes self-referential of the school itself."

Fox-Morgan said he made molds for the beams from wood lined with plastic, then poured the mixture of glue, house paint, water and paper into the them.

Each beam cast took about three weeks to dry completely, he said.

Wright said Fox-Morgan's project was a "strangely circular process" in that he paid to go to school, paperwork was generated and now he's using the same paper from the school to work toward graduating.

"And what's nice is when I'm done with this," Fox-Morgan said, "I can either take it to Burning Man or I can take it and light it on fire or I can recycle it."

Andrew Hedges, an art and design graduate student, said he really admires Fox-Morgan and his work.

"It's a monumental amount of work," Hedges said, "and I'm excited to see it (set) up."



CINTHIA RODRIGUEZ / SPARTAN DAILY

Mark Fox-Morgan, who is 6-feet-2-inches tall, stands in the doorway of his 11-foot cast paper house.

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Katharine Davies Samway



Katharine Davies Samway is Professor of Education in the Connie L. Lurie College of Education, Department of Elementary Education, where she teaches language and literacy courses. She is also the Co-Principal Investigator for the federally funded research project, VINE (Vocabulary Innovations in Education), which is investigating the impact of word consciousness/vocabulary development on 4th graders' reading and writing. Dr. Samway's research focuses on the literacy development of children from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, especially English language learners (ELLs), and influences on teachers' beliefs and practices. Three of her recently published books are:

Teaching English Language Learners, K-5: Strategies that Work (2007)
Myths and Realities: Best Practices for English Language Learners, 2nd Edition (2006), and
When English Language Learners Write: Connecting Research and Practice (2006).

Dr. Samway's presentation will focus on what research tells us about the writing development and writing processes of English language learners, and how her research has led to innovations in her own teaching at the university level.

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
Schiro Room 5th floor
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Free Admission

This Series is co-sponsored by the San José State University King Library,
Office of the Provost, and Spartan Bookstore.

For more information, call 924-2408
To contact the library, call 808-2300

This event is wheelchair accessible. If you need special accommodations, call 924-1838



birds and the bees. Call box #59801

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LIGHT MY FIRE
sucker for classic rock n roll, my dog is my
favorite jogging partner and I also whip up
mean General Tsao's chicken. Looking for
someone to... the night!
Call box #31946

SEE WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU
I can be exhausting but I'm worth every second.
Every short breath, every bead of sweat - you
won't regret a moment spent with me espe-
cially when we're done. Some opt for a slow,
steady pace; others get there the hard and fast
way. I'll take whatever speed you like. Sound
good? If so, see what I can do for you at
RunningLovesYou.com

BAR STAR
looking for late night paramour who can go the
distance. The night time is my time - want to
make it our time? You bring the reflective
clothing - I'll bring the liquid. Call box #31946

CHILLIN
me: funny, cute, enjoy the couch when I'm not
out running around. You: warm, honest, 18 - 24
years old, well dressed and ready to join me on
the couch. Call box #51932

GENUINE, LOYAL, FIERCE
masters student looking for a fulfilling rela-
tionship that goes beyond walk around the
block. You must be motivated and a motivator.
Let's talk or go for a jog sometime.
Call box #24125

OLD FASHIONED
but still know my way around the modern
dating game. Prefer to take things slow, never
much of a sprinter, but can adapt if the time is
right. Morning, Noon or Night. Call box #74125

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
still believes the right person is out there, and
I'm still waiting to bump into you. Staying in /
going out, movies, long runs on the beach by
moonlight...if this doesn't sound too corny to
you, Call box #65214

SILLY AND
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